



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

7 GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED BY ICE, FBI AND ROSWELL PD

ATLANTA—Seven dangerous gang members were arrested here this week by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and officers of the Roswell Police Department.

Among the arrested was twenty-year-old Oscar Cardenas-Garcia, a citizen of Mexico, who was charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol. Cardenas, who has a previous arrest for armed robbery, is in the United States without being admitted or paroled. He has been identified as a member of the Riverside Locos street gang.

All of those arrested are citizens of Mexico belonging to various local violent street gangs including the Riverside Locos, Westside Locos, Mexican Locos, Sureños Hard Times, La Raza and the Pure Latin Crew. Their criminal histories include convictions for crimes ranging from armed robbery and forgery to possession of a controlled substance and stalking.

“The law enforcement community here is united and strong,” said Kenneth A. Smith, special agent-in-charge in Atlanta. “We have zero tolerance for those who hurt the innocent. Gang members that terrorize our community will be found and arrested.”

All of those arrested this week are in ICE custody pending removal proceedings.

These arrests are the latest enforcement actions under Operation Community Shield, an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in February to disrupt, dismantle and assist in criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE. The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country.

In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE’s Operation

Community Shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.